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45 years of age. Before it was made compulsory, 17,000 officers and enlisted men had been vaccinated voluntarily. During the recent mobilization of troops in Texas, when the men were in camp for more than two months, under war conditions, only one case of typhoid resulted, that of a teamster who had not been vaccinated. This was in striking contrast to the Spanish-American war when within a period of three and one half months there were 20,738 cases with 1,580 deaths.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

LARGELY through the efforts of Mrs. E. H. Harriman, a fund of \$40,000 a year for five years has been provided to maintain an experimental school for the study and administration of public business. The school will be started in New York, but the scope is intended to be national. Mrs. Harriman personally consulted a number of business men, journalists, educators and public officials as to the need of providing such a training school, and their favorable replies resulted in her offer of a contribution to make possible a five years' test of such a school. Her own contribution was \$40,000 for the first year and \$10,000 for the succeeding years. Messrs. John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan and others gave enough to provide for a total annual income of \$40,000. The work will be carried on by the directors of the Bureau of Municipal Research.

THE statute allowing honor students in mathematics and natural science to dispense with Greek in responsions passed the Oxford congregation on November 7 by a vote of 33 to 11. It will now be submitted to convocation, the ultimate legislative authority of the university.

DR. EDMUND B. HUEY, who has for some time been making examinations of defective children and of aphasic patients at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, has been appointed lecturer on mental development in the Johns Hopkins University and assistant in psychiatry in the Phipps Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. From January to June, 1912, Dr. Huey will give, at the university, a series of weekly public

lectures and clinics on the subject of backward and feeble-minded children, and on related phases of clinical psychology.

DR. ALFRED N. GOLDSMITH has been appointed instructor in physics in the College of the City of New York.

DR. ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN, hitherto assistant professor, has been promoted to a full professorship in anthropology at Clark University.

PROFESSOR R. I. SMITH, of the North Carolina College of Agriculture, has accepted a position with the Porto Rico College of Agriculture, taking up extension work in agricultural education. His address after January 1, 1912, will be Mayaguez, Porto Rico.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE USE OF SODIUM BENZOATE AS A PRESERVATIVE OF FOOD

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It seems proper that the following quotation of the Prussian Scientific Deputation of Medical Affairs should be published in addition to that copied by SCIENCE from an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, that the American public shall not be misled:

In order to decide the question concerning the use of benzoic acid and its salts as a preservative of food, one must consider the result of the prolonged administration of these substances in small doses. Such experiments were carried out on twelve young men in the chemical laboratory of the Agricultural Department in Washington under the direction of Wiley. The persons experimented on received, in increasing quantities, between 0.5 to 2.5 grams of benzoic acid or benzoate in capsules during four periods of five days each. The majority of the persons experimented on experienced digestive and metabolic disturbances, gastric pain, vomiting and reduction in body weight, which decided Wiley to declare that the use of benzoate salts should not be allowed in the preservation of food. Since, however, doubts arose regarding the technic of these experiments and since the injury to the health of the individuals could not with certainty be attributed to the use of benzoate of soda, an American commission ap-